BACKGROUNDER NO. 1-0636 APRIL 23, 1976
JOHN LENNON

THIS WEEK NO. 17
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR:

"THIS WEEK."

FROM THE VOICE OF AMERICA, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK GONE BY...A LOOK AT SOME OF THE EVENTS, A CROSS-SECTION OF THE IDEAS AND THE VOICES OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO MADE NEWS DURING THE PAST SEVEN DAYS. YOUR NARRATOR IS ----------.

NARR:

IF THERE HAS BEEN A SINGLE THREAD RUNNING THROUGH THE CAMPAIGN DEBATES BETWEEN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES IN THE UNITED STATES THIS ELECTION YEAR, IT HAS BEEN THAT OF AMERICA'S DEFENSE POLICY -- WHETHER OR NOT THE NATION'S ARMED FORCES ARE ADEQUATE TO PROTECT THE COUNTRY AGAINST ATTACK, AND TO ENABLE IT TO CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. (OPT) CHALLENGERS S SEEKING THE WHITE HOUSE IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GENERATE CONTINUED ENTHUSIASM AMONG THE VOTERS OVER DOMESTIC ISSUES -- AND WITH VIETNAM LONG SINCE PAST, THERE HAS BEEN NO SINGLE FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE WHICH MIGHT BE USED TO GENERATE A MOOD OF DISCONTENT. PRESIDENT FORD'S OPPONENTS IN BOTH PARTIES HAVE THEREFORE SOUGHT TO PLOW FERTILE GROUND IN ANOTHER FIELD -- THAT OF THE ONLY OTHER PERENNIAL PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN ISSUE DRAMATIC ENOUGH TO AROUSE THE INTEREST OF THE NATION'S VOTERS -- THE NATION'S DEFENSES. (END OPT)

THE ATTACK ON THE FORD ADMINISTRATION'S DEFENSE POLICY HAS BEEN LED BY MISTER FORD'S ONLY CHALLENGER FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION, FORMER CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN. MISTER REAGAN BEGAN HIS CAMPAIGN BY CAREFULLY

AVOIDING ANY DIRECT ASSAULT ON PRESIDENT FORD. BUT HE HAS TAKEN THE OFFENSIVE IN RECENT WEEKS -- CHARGING THAT THE UNITED STATES, UNDER THE FOREIGN POLICY GUIDANCE OF MISTER FORD AND SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER, HAS BEEN SHOVED ASIDE AS THE WORLD'S FOREMOST MILITARY POWER, AND REPLACED BY THE SOVIET UNION. ALTHOUGH BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE HAVE REBUTTED MISTER REAGAN'S CHARGES, THE FORMER CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR HAS CONTINUED HIS ATTACKS -- BELIEVING, ACCORDING TO POLITICAL OBSERVERS, THAT HE HAS FOUND AN ISSUE THAT HAS STRONG APPEAL FOR CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN VOTERS. THIS WEEK, IN ONE OF HIS STRONGEST STATEMENTS ON THE SUBJECT SO FAR, PRESIDENT FORD SAID MISTER REAGAN'S ARGUMENTS WERE PREPOSTEROUS.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- FORD -- 1:25 (FADE APPLAUSE AT END)

"RECENT CHARGES THAT THE UNITED STATES IS IN A POSITION OF MILITARY INFERIORITY, THAT WE HAVE ACCEPTED SOVIET WORLD DOMINATION, ARE COMPLETE AND UTTER NONSENSE. (APPLAUSE) IF THERE IS ANY SINGLE STANDARD WHICH HAS GUIDED MY YEARS IN PUBLIC SERVICE, IT HAS BEEN THIS: THE FREEDOM AND SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA MUST ALWAYS BE PRESERVED. AMERICA IS THE GREATEST NATION ON EARTH, AND WE WILL KEEP IT THAT WAY. (APPLAUSE) DURING THE YEARS BEFORE I BECAME VICE PRESIDENT, AS MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, I FOUGHT OPENLY AND HARD, YEAR AFTER YEAR, FOR THE MAXIMUM MILITARY STRENGTH RECOMMENDED, WHETHER BY A REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT OR BY A DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT. FOR THESE LAST TWO YEARS AS YOUR PRESIDENT, I HAVE CALLED UPON THE CONGRESS TO APPROVE THE TWO BIGGEST DEFENSE BUDGETS IN AMERICAN HISTORY. AND MY PLEDGE TO YOU TODAY IS THIS: AS LONG AS I HOLD THIS OFFICE, I INTEND TO SEE TO IT THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NEVER BECOME TO ANYBODY, PERIOD."

DESPITE THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT, MISTER REAGAN, CAMPAIGNING IN STATES WHERE THE TWO MEN WILL FACE EACH OTHER IN UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTIONS, REPEATED HIS CHARGES -- SAYING THAT HIS VIEW REGARDING AMERICA'S STATUS AS A SECOND-CLASS MILITARY POWER HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY STATEMENTS FROM SOME OF PRESIDENT FORD'S TOP ADVISORS.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- REAGAN -- :45

"DOCTOR KISSINGER HAS EXPRESSED THAT PESSIMISTIC VIEW ABOUT OUR STATUS. THERE ALSO CAN BE NO QUESTION ABOUT THE FACTS AND FIGURES AS THEY ARE. HIS OWN SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, MISTER RUMSFELD, REFUSED IN A SENATE HEARING TO ANSWER A SENATOR'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD SAY THAT THIS NATION IS NUMBER ONE. AND THE FACTS THAT HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY DOCTOR CURRIE, BY GENERAL HAIG, BY MISTER IKLE, BY (ADMIRAL) NITZE -- YOU CAN GO DOWN THE LINE WITH THESE MEN AND THEY ALL GIVE US THE FACT THAT WE ARE OUTGUNNED IN ARTILLERY, WE ARE OUTMANNED IN TANKS, WE'RE OUTMANNED IN GROUND FORCES, WE'RE TWO-TO-ONE IN NAVAL VESSELS BOTH SURFACE AND SUBMARINE, AND WE'RE CERTAINLY BEHIND IN NUCLEAR POWER."

NARR:

AT A NEWS CONFERENCE LATER IN THE WEEK, SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER ONCE AGAIN DENIED THE CHARGES THAT THE UNITED STATES IS A SECOND-RATE MILITARY POWER. AND, HE ADDED, PRESIDENT FORD HAD MADE NO SUGGESTION TO HIM THAT UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY -- TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION OR ANY OTHER PART OF THE WORLD -- BE SHAPED TO MEET ANY REQUIREMENTS THAT MIGHT BE IMPOSED BY THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT THE CURRENT DEBATE OVER UNITED STATES DEFENSE POLICIES WAS UNDOUBTEDLY BEING MONITORED ABROAD.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- KISSINGER -- 1:20

"INEVITABLY, WHEN THE UNITED STATES IS DESCRIBED AS 'SECOND-RATE,' WHEN IT IS ALLEGED THAT SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ARE RESIGNED TO GETTING THE BEST DEAL THEY CAN FROM A NATION THAT IS PERCEIVED TO BE DOMINANT -- ALL CHARGES WHICH ARE WRONG AND IRRESPONSIBLE -- INEVITABLY, THIS IS BOUND TO AFFECT THE PERCEPTIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES....THERE ARE NO OCCASIONS WHEN THE PRESIDENT AND I MEET WHERE HE WOULD SAY, 'WE CANNOT DO THIS FOR POLITICAL REASONS.' ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS CLEAR THAT WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY CANDIDATES IN THE FIELD AND WHEN THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF BEING ACCUSED OF POLITICAL MOTIVATIONS IN MAKING A DRAMATIC MOVE. . . THERE IS A TEMPTATION, OR A TENDENCY, TO DEFER DRAMATIC MOVES THAT COULD BE SEEN AS BEING POLITICALLY MOTIVATED UNTIL THAT PARTICULAR ELEMENT OF DISCORD IS REMOVED. . . . SO, ON THE WHOLE, I THINK IT IS TRUE THAT AS FOREIGN COUNTRIES LOOK AT THE UNITED STATES EVERY FOUR YEARS, THERE IS A CERTAIN SLOWDOWN IN NEW INITIATIVES THAT CAN BE CARRIED OUT."

NARR:

SECRETARY KISSINGER REAFFIRMED THE UNITED STATES INTEREST IN NEGOTIATING A STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION -- AND SAID HE STILL BELIEVES SUCH AN AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED, NOTING THE POSSIBILITY OF SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS BEING MADE THIS YEAR. IN THE MEANTIME, HE SAID, THE UNITED STATES HAS THE MILITARY STRENGTH AND THE POLITICAL WILL TO RESIST SOVIET EFFORTS TO EXPLOIT THE RELAXATION OF TENSIONS.

IN CONGRESS, MEANWHILE, THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED DEFENSE BUDGET CONTINUED TO MOVE THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, WITH NO SIGN THAT EITHER THE HOUSE OR SENATE WOULD ACT TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS.

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IN PORTUGAL THIS WEEK, THE PEOPLE OF THAT COUNTRY PREPARED TO GO TO THE POLLS TO TAKE PART IN A FREE LEGISLATIVE ELECTION FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FIFTY YEARS. MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED SIXTY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WILL BE CHOSEN, ALONG WITH A NEW PRESIDENT, WHEN VOTERS CAST THEIR BALLOTS ON SUNDAY. UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM, THE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT AND SELECT AND DISMISS THE PRIME MINISTER -- A SYSTEM THAT WILL REPLACE THE PRESENT GOVERNING FORMULA WHICH PLACES ALL MAJOR POWERS IN THE HANDS OF THE MILITARY. THE APPROACH OF ELECTION DAY SAW MOUNTING TENSION AS PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS CAMPAIGNED FOR SUPPORT -- AND LEADERS OF ONCE-POWERFUL PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST BLOC WARNED OF NATIONAL INSTABILITY IF THEY SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THURSDAY AFTERNOON, A BOMB BLAST ROCKED THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN DOWNTOWN LISBON, BUT OFFICIALS WERE NOT CERTAIN THAT THE INCIDENT WAS CONNECTED WITH THE ELECTION.

NEVERTHELESS, AUTHORITIES SAID MAXIMUM SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WOULD BE TAKEN ON ELECTION DAY -- AND WARNED OF INTERVENTION BY THE ARMED FORCES, IF NECESSARY, TO ENFORCE THE ELECTION LAWS.

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(OPT) IN ANOTHER PART OF THE WORLD A NEW LEADER TOOK OFFICE THIS WEEK -- AS SENI PRAMOJ WAS SELECTED BY A FOUR-PARTY COALITION TO BECOME THAILAND'S NEW PRIME MINISTER. THE SEVENTY-ONE YEAR OLD BROTHER OF THE OUTGOING PREMIER KUKRIT PRAMOJ, MISTER SENI INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PURSUE A FOREIGN POLICY SEEKING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL NATIONS REGARDLESS OF IDEOLOGY -- AND THAT THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC ISSUE FACING HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE THE RETURN OF INTERNAL STABILITY. REGARDED AS A POPULAR POLITICAL FIGURE, THE NEW THAI PREMIER WAS EXPECTED TO ENJOY THE CONFIDENCE OF THE THAI PEOPLE AT THE OUTSET OF HIS REGIME. MANY THAIS BELIEVE THIS TRANSITION PERIOD TO BE OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE, FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALMOST ALL UNITED STATES MILITARY FORCES FROM THE COUNTRY.

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ELSEWHERE IN ASIA, (END OPT) CHINA'S NEW PREMIER, HUA KUO-FENG LED THE WELCOMING PARTY THIS WEEK WHEN A DELEGATION OF EGYPTIAN LEADERS LANDED IN PEKING. LITTLE MORE THAN ONE MONTH EARLIER, EGYPT'S PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT HAD ANGRILY BROKEN OFF A FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH THE SOVIET UNION, CHARGING THAT MOSCOW HAD FAILED TO MEET THE MILITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT. LEADING THE CAIRO DELEGATION, EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT HOSNI MUBARAK ARRIVED IN PEKING AS

THE CHINESE NEWS MEDIA PRAISED WHAT WAS CALLED EGYPT'S BOLD DECISION TO END ITS AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION. AND AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF TALKS -- MARKED BY BANQUETS AND A MEETING BETWEEN MISTER MUBARAK AND CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG -- A MILITARY PROTOCOL WAS SIGNED, AND LEADERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES VOICED THE HOPE THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS WOULD BE STRENGTHENED ON A PERMANENT BASIS. DETAILS OF THE PROTOCOL WERE NOT ANNOUNCED, BUT EGYPT'S NEED FOR SPARE PARTS FOR ITS SOVIET-BUILT AIR FORCE IS WELL KNOWN. THE MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY ALSO NOTED TENTATIVE AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN REACHED IN THE AREAS OF INDUSTRY, ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TRADE -- AND THAT THE NEW CHINESE PREMIER HAD ACCEPTED AN EGYPTIAN INVITATION TO VISIT CAIRO.

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IF THE MOOD WAS BRIGHT IN PEKING THIS WEEK, IT WAS AS GLOOMY AS EVER IN BEIRUT -- WHERE OPPOSING FACTIONS IN THE LEBANESE CIVIL WAR CONTINUED TO EXCHANGE GUNFIRE, AND WHERE HE FUTURE OF LEBANON ITSELF REMAINED AS UNCERTAIN AS EVER. EARLIER REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT SULEIMAN FRANJIEH HAD AGREED TO RESIGN IN FAVOR OF A SUCCESSOR TO BE ELECTED BY PARLIAMENT APPEARED TO BE PREMATURE -- AS THE LEBANESE LEADER REMAINED BARRICADED AT HIS RESIDENCE NORTH OF THE CAPITAL. AT MID-WEEK, MISTER FRANJIEH SENT TWO ENVOYS TO DAMASCUS -- REPORTEDLY TO SEEK CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING A PEACE PLAN WORKED OUT BETWEEN SYRIAN OFFICIALS AND LEBANESE PALESTINIANS. THE SPECIAL UNITED STATES ENVOY SENT TO DEAL WITH THE CRISIS, L. DEAN BROWN, LEFT BEIRUT AT WEEK'S END FOR TALKS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER AND OTHER AMERICAN OFFICIALS.

BUT DESPITE CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS ON SEVERAL FRONTS, THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT DIPLOMACY HAD MOVED THE COUNTRY'S WARRING FACTIONS ANY CLOSER TO AN AGREEMENT. LEFT-WING MOSLEM ELEMENTS AND RIGHT-WING CHRISTIANS CONTINUED TO BATTLE IN THE STREETS OF BEIRUT -- SEPARATED IN SOME AREAS BY SYRIAN-BACKED PALESTINE LIBERATION ARMY FORCES SENT TO KEEP THE PEACE, BUT MANAGING NEVERTHELESS TO INFLICT HEAVY CASUALTIES. HUNDREDS DIED IN THE WEEK OF FIGHTING -- AND ON THURSDAY, IT APPEARED THAT ANOTHER POLITICAL CRISIS MIGHT SOON DEVELOP. LEFTIST LEADERS, FRUSTRATED IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO FORCE THE RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT FRANJIEH, WARNED THAT A NEW REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PROCLAIMED WITHIN TEN DAYS -- UNLESS A NEW PRESIDENT WAS ELECTED.

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AS OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON KEPT A WARY EYE ON LEBANON THIS WEEK, SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER PREPARED FOR HIS TWO-WEEK, SEVEN NATION TOUR OF BLACK AFRICA. AT A NEWS CONFERENCE BEFORE LEAVING WASHINGTON, DOCTOR KISSINGER ONCE AGAIN CALLED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL FROM AFRICA OF THE ESTIMATED FIFTEEN THOUSAND CUBAN TROOPS NOW IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE CONTINENT. SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA, SAID THE SECRETARY, HAS BEEN A MAJOR ELEMENT IN THE COOLING OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS. REGARDING THE CONTINUING ATMOSPHERE OF TENSION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, SECRETARY KISSINGER SAID THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES ITS STRONG SUPPORT FOR BLACK MAJORITY RULE.

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- KISSINGER -- 1:17

"OF COURSE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AFRICAN OBJECTIVES HAS TO BE PRIMARILY AN AFRICAN PROBLEM, BUT I WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH MY AFRICAN HOSTS THE CONCRETE POLICIES THAT COULD BE IMPLEMENTED TO BRING ABOUT MAJORITY RULE AND I WILL BE PREPARED TO PUT FORWARD WHAT THE UNITED STATES, IN ITS TURN, IS PREPARED TO DO OR TO SUPPORT. I DO NOT ACCEPT THE PROPOSITION THAT THE USE OF EXTRACONTINENTAL MILITARY FORCE, SUPPORTED BY ONE OF THE SUPERPOWERS, IS THE ONLY WAY OF ACHIEVING THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND IT IS, INDEED, OUR BELIEF THAT IT IS THE WAY THAT LEADS TO THE GREATEST DANGER THAT AFRICA WILL BECOME A PART OF THE GREAT POWER RIVALRY. SO WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS STRONG DESIRE EXISTS ON THE PART OF THE BLACK AFRICAN NATIONS, THAT IT MUST BE GIVEN A REALISTIC PERSPECTIVE, AND WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS ACHIEVABLE.

Q. "MR. SECRETARY, DO YOU THINK THAT MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA IS POSSIBLE IN THE NEXT DECADE?"

A. "YES, I DO."

NARR:

IN THE FACE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S BELIEF THAT MAJORITY RULE IS POSSIBLE WITH A DECADE, THERE WERE ECHOES THIS WEEK OF RECENT STATEMENTS BY RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH -- THAT NEVER IN A THOUSAND YEARS WOULD HE ACQUIESE TO DEMANDS FOR MAJORITY RULE. RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES MOUNTED A MASSIVE SEARCH EARLY IN THE WEEK FOR BANDS OF INSURGENTS BELIEVED RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF THREE SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISTS IN RHODESIA -- AND TENSION ALONG THE CLOSED BORDER WITH MOZAMBIQUE REMAINED HIGH. IN NEIGHBORING SOUTH AFRICA, PRIME MINISTER JOHN VORSTER DENIED LONDON NEWS REPORTS THAT HIS WHITE-RULED GOVERNMENT HAD CUT OFF MILITARY AID TO RHODESIA -- AND HE CALLED ON BLACK AFRICAN LEADERS IN THE REGION TO CONTROL TERRORIST ACTIVITY. OTHERWISE, HE SAID, UNBRIDLED EMOTIONS COULD UNLEASH UNPREDICTABLE EVENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. BUT MISTER VORSTER ADDED THAT DESPITE SET-BACKS, THE PEACE INITIATIVE BETWEEN WHITE-MINORITY GOVERNMENTS AND BLACK NATIONALIST LEADERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IS STILL ALIVE.

(OPT) APARTHEID POLICIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA -- ALONG WITH ZIONISM AND COLONIALISM -- WERE CONDEMNED IN A DRAFT DECLARATION THIS WEEK, FOLLOWING A FOUR-DAY JOINT MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND THE ARAB LEAGUE. REPRESENTATIVES FROM SIXTY ARAB AND AFRICAN NATIONS GATHERED IN DAKAR, SENEGAL -- AND AGREED TO SET UP A JOINT COMMISSION TO FACILITATE FUTURE ECONOMIC COOPERATION. IN AN INITIAL STEP TOWARD THAT END, THE CONFERENCE AGREED TO GIVE MOZAMBIQUE A LOW-INTEREST SIX MILLION DOLLAR LOAN, TO HELP THAT COUNTRY SURVIVE THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES RESULTING FROM ITS DECISION TO CLOSE THE BORDER WITH RHODESIA. AT THE END OF THE CONFERENCE, ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL MAHMOUD RIYADH STRESSED THAT THE AFRO-ARAB CONFERENCE HAD NOT BEEN CALLED IN AN EFFORT TO SET UP A NEW ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL BLOC. THERE ARE ENOUGH BLOCS, HE SAID, AND ARAB AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REFORMS THROUGH EXISTING INSTITUTIONS. (END OPT)

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(OPT) SEVERAL OTHER PEOPLE MADE NEWS THIS WEEK... IN LONDON, QUEEN ELIZABETH CELEBRATED HER FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY BY DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY AT WINDSOR CASTLE. THE QUEEN PAID FOR THE LAVISH BALL WITH HER OWN FUNDS -- BUT BRITAIN'S NEW PRIME MINISTER, JAMES CALLAGHAN REPORTEDLY STAYED AWAY BECAUSE HE DID NOT THINK IT PROPER TO TAKE PART IN SUCH AN EVENT AT A TIME WHEN THE NATION'S ECONOMY WAS SO LOW.

THE QUEEN'S DAUGHTER, PRINCESS ANNE, HAD HER OLYMPIC HOPES DASHED THIS WEEK WHEN SHE WAS THROWN BY HER HORSE -- CRACKING A VERTEBRA, SUFFERING A CONCUSSION, AND LANDING IN THE HOSPITAL FOR TESTS AND TREATMENT.

IN FRANCE, COLONEL VALERIE ANDRE, A WOMAN, BECAME THE FIRST FEMALE GENERAL IN FRENCH MILITARY HISTORY -- APPOINTED GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE AFTER A LONG CAREER THAT INCLUDED PARACHUTE JUMPS INTO WAR ZONES IN INDOCHINA.

AND IN AUSTRALIA, SIX ARMED BANDITS ROBBED THE VICTORIAN TURF CLUB ON TUESDAY -- MAKING OFF WITH WHAT POLICE BELIEVE MAY BE THE BIGGEST HAUL IN HISTORY -- AN ESTIMATED SIX MILLION DOLLARS. THE CASH HAD BEEN SET ASIDE FOR MELBOURNE'S BOOK-MAKERS, AFTER AN EASTER WEEKEND OF HORSE RACING. (END OPT)

FINALLY THIS WEEK, DOCTORS IN THE UNITED STATES BEGAN WHAT MAY BE THE MOST MASSIVE VACCINATION PROGRAM IN MEDICAL HISTORY. AT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE IN WASHINGTON, THE FIRST TEST INNOCULATIONS WERE GIVEN IN AN ALL-OUT CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SO-CALLED SWINE FLU -- A VIRUS THAT SOME MEDICAL RESEARCHERS BELIEVE MAY BE RELATED TO THE STRAIN THAT CAUSED A WORLD-WIDE EPIDEMIC AT THE TIME OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR, KILLING AN ESTIMATED TWENTY MILLION PEOPLE. PRESIDENT FORD HAS ORDERED THAT THE VACCINE BE MADE AVAILABLE TO EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN THE UNITED STATES -- AND THAT ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS BE SPENG TO PRODUCE AND DISTRIBUTE IT. AMONG THE FIRST TO BE GIVEN A SHOT IN THE ARM THIS WEEK WAS DOCTOR THEODORE COOPER, A TOP GOVERNMENT HEALTH OFFICIAL, WHO SAID THE THREAT TO THE NATION'S HEALTH JUSTIFIED THE EXPENSE OF THE VACCINATION PROGRAM.

<u>TAPE: CUT FIVE -- COOPER -- :24</u>

"WE CANNOT SAY FOR SURE THAT AN INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC CAUSED BY THIS INFLUENZA-TYPE VIRUS WILL OCCUR THIS FALL AND WINTER, BUT IT IS A POSSIBILITY. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE A CHANCE, IN MY VIEW, TO DO ABSOLUTELY NOTHING. IN MY VIEW, THIS IS A PROPER INVESTMENT IN DISEASE PREVENTION."

NARR:

OTHER MEDICAL RESEARCHERS DISAGREED WITH DOCTOR COOPER, SAYING THAT IT WAS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN THAT THE SWINE FLU VIRUS COULD CAUSE MAJOR ILLNESS -- AND THAT IN ANY CASE, THE NEW VACCINE HAD NOT BEEN PROPERLY TESTED. BUT GOVERNMENT SCIENTISTS SAID THEY BELIEVED SUFFICIENT TESTS HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT TO GUARANTEE THE VACCINE'S SAFETY -- AND THAT IN MAKING THIS NATIONAL EFFORT TO FIGHT THE DISEASE, IT WAS BETTER TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS NOW -- RATHER THAN RISK DISASTER LATER THIS YEAR.

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(OPT) AND THOSE ARE SOME OF THE TOP STORIES THAT MADE NEWS THIS WEEK. YOUR NARRATOR WAS ----------. JOIN US AGAINST NEXT ----------, WHEN THE VOICE OF AMERICA TAKES A LOOK AT THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS, ON "THIS WEEK." (END OPT)

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